

No Room for Error

CASE STUDY: Asbestos Surveying and Occupational Hygiene in Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration

If you work in construction, you will know that hazardous materials can stop work in its tracks. At sea, the stakes are much higher. When something goes wrong, the offshore crews who live and work on site can't easily leave, increasing the urgency to stop accidents before they happen.

AEC have worked with a world leader in offshore engineering and construction for the last 16 years. This partnership has given us unrivalled insight into the demands for businesses operating offshore. Here, we show how we delivered asbestos surveying, training and occupational hygiene monitoring in this challenging environment.



Delivering HSE work to support offshore oil and gas exploration is anything but simple. From the very start of the project, the client and AEC understood three major challenges unique to their situation:

CHALLENGE 1

Safety

The client needed a partner that could help them spot hazards well before they could cause problems.

Working on land, if you find hazardous substances such as asbestos on your premises, you can temporarily close your site and keep your colleagues away until it's safe.

However, on a platform or a vessel, the options to deal with the problem are far less simple. Crews can live and work on these sites for weeks at a time, so preventative measures like asbestos surveying and occupational hygiene monitoring are essential.

CHALLENGE 2

Logistics

With 40,000 employees working across 7 continents, the client needed solutions that were scalable.

From production facilities on land to construction vessels and exploration platforms at sea, the client required consistently excellent standards for occupational hygiene monitoring, asbestos surveying, and training to be delivered in difficult and highly variable circumstances.

CHALLENGE 3

Trust

The client needed to reassure all stakeholders that they were the best in their field.

A serious accident or oversight doesn't only result in material damage: it can lead to legal action and termination of contracts with major clients, which could pose an existential threat to their business. Not to mention the threat to people's lives.

The client needed a skilled partner who they could trust both their safety and their reputation with.

As we have shown, our client's work is uniquely demanding, but they trusted AEC to rise to the challenges. **Here's a snapshot into our 16-year partnership:**

SOLUTION 1

Safety

✔ **Crew and safety officials know how to manage asbestos safely by themselves.**

AEC has delivered asbestos awareness, management and surveying training to the client's crews and HSE leaders. They have the expertise to manage asbestos independently where needed and we make sure it stays that way.

✔ **The client has access to industry-leading OH and asbestos expertise.**

The client has access to surveying and sample analysis for most of their fleet, on and offshore. They have also received vital OH assessments for air quality, noise, dust, welding fumes, isocyanates, lighting, welding and painting.

SOLUTION 2

Logistics

✔ **Internal HSE guidelines, training and continued support set an industry standard for safety.**

With our staff continually trained to work with the client in these demanding environments, AEC still conducts essential asbestos surveys and OH assessments globally. However, not only does our client benefit from large numbers of their own staff being trained, but we've also worked closely to develop their internal asbestos and OH management procedures, setting a standard for the oil and gas industry.

SOLUTION 3

Trust

✔ **The client cemented their reputation for safety with blue-chip clients and governments.**

Our partnership has placed workforce health and legal compliance at the heart of the client's work. As a result, they remain a trusted engineering partner to governments and some of the largest businesses in the oil and gas industry.



For us to be able to deliver asbestos surveying, training and occupational hygiene monitoring, all clients must be sure that AEC can adapt to the demands of their industry, whatever the scale and nature of the work. **For this project, there were several hurdles to overcome:**



Preparation

Offshore work is hazardous, and our specialists have to know what to do in an emergency. Before starting work, they pass the same basic training that crews do, which includes helicopter, sea survival, H2S (Hydrogen Sulphide) and firefighting training.



Embedding

Offshore shift patterns require our specialists to be on site for weeks at a time. We work with the client to effectively embed them as crew members for the duration. Having our specialists on site minimises disruption to their work.



Travel

From our bases in Manchester and London, our specialists travel to the client's facilities to deliver training, surveying and monitoring services on site. AEC liaises with the client to make this process seamless, meeting all visa, travel and vaccination requirements.



"Hot Work"

AEC conducts this work across diverse climates and unpredictable conditions, including tropical climates (Malaysia) and intense 45°C+ heat in the Gulf of Arabia.



Material

AEC works with the client to pass asbestos and other hazardous material samples through strict customs checks. This sample analysis is essential to keeping client sites safe.



Culture

Cultural considerations are necessary when working across different territories with diverse crew. AEC staff are briefed on cultural awareness for such assignments.



This is one of many large-scale projects that AEC carries out for clients across a diverse range of sectors, from oil and gas to construction.

Our support stops delays to your work, prevents unnecessary costs and keeps your people safe. You can trust us to keep your business compliant, and by completing all the relevant legal paperwork for you, you can focus on completing the task at hand.

We have over 25 years' experience in occupational hygiene, asbestos surveying, training and sample analysis. We always start by understanding the unique challenges that you face so that we can tailor an approach that delivers exactly what you need.

Book a call with one of our specialists to discuss those challenges today.

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